GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1109
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
WIDENING OF PLANTATION SECTOR
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plantation sector in the country is largely confined to few Southern States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified soil and agro climate specific plantation crops that can be grown and propagated in non-traditional regions/States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to widen the base of plantation sector in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) Tea: Tea is grown in 16 States including Tamil Nadu and Kerala. From 6th Five Year Plan onwards the agro-climatic conditions suitable for growing teas in various non traditional states have been explored and tea has been introduced in all the North Eastern non traditional states and also in Orissa, Bihar and Uttrakhand.The production of tea in the country at present is sufficient to meet the domestic and export level. Accordingly it has since been decided not to extend area under tea any more.However, in the 11th Plan period, the focus will be on uprooting and replanting of old age tea areas under tea plantation. However, in the hilly areas of North East and Uttaranchal new planting in small sector is included in the XIth Plan

Coffee: Coffee cultivation is largely confined to 3 traditional coffee growing states viz. Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Based on comprehensive surveys in 1960s and 1970s, the Coffee Board has identified non traditional coffee growing areas in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and the North Eastern States based on the soil and agro climatic requirements of coffee.As coffee cultivation requires conducive micro climatic conditions with respect to rainfall pattern, temperature, humidity, soil profile etc., its cultivation cannot be widened across all states. Under its coffee expansion programme during the 11th Plan period the Coffee Board has proposed cultivation of coffee plantation in approx. 19,500 hectare in the non traditional coffee growing areas.

Rubber: Traditionally rubber is grown in the states of Kerala and Kanyakumari Dist. of Tamil Nadu where the agro climate is suitable for rubber. Rubber Board`s surveys have revealed that there are certain pockets in the states of Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh where rubber can be grown. Next to the traditional belt, North Eastern States of Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizroram, Manipur and Nagaland hold maximum potential for growing rubber. The Board has been trying to spread rubber cultivation in these states from 1960s onwards and a total of 84,252 ha. has been planted with rubber in the non traditional region including the North East upto 2005-06.

Spices: Spices are grown in almost all states in India depending upon the adaptability to various agro climatic zones.Pepper and cardamom are mainly concentrated in the states of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.Efforts are made to cultivate pepper in Andhra Pradesh and North Eastern states. Various steps taken by the Spices Board to widen the base of plantation sector in the country include: productivity improvement of small and large cardamom; post harvest improvement of spices; development of exhautic and high value spices; promotion of organic farming; development of spices in North Eastern states; and extension advisory service.